

DECLASSIFIED

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A/ISS/IPS, Department of State
E.O. 12958, as amended
December 18, 2008

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MEMORANDUM

AC/S
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ACTION

March 23, 1974

*Brent -
we don't
need
Pres. OK for
NSSM's.*

MEMORANDUM FOR:

HENRY A. KISSINGER

FROM:

BRENT SCOWCROFT: *B*

SUBJECT:

Implications of Worldwide Population
Growth for U.S. Security and Overseas
Interests

Attached at Tab I are a proposed memorandum to the President and a draft NSSM recommending a study by the Under Secretaries Committee of the national security implications of worldwide population growth.

A NSSM at this time on population growth is useful for two reasons:

1. It will be helpful in designing the U.S. position for the world population conference this August in Bucharest.
2. It will respond to frequent letters which the President and you have received, principally from Bill Draper, urging NSC focus on this problem.

The proposed study focusses on the implications of population growth for our security and other overseas interests (e.g., trade and development); it does not contemplate review of ecological and sociological aspects. The study is proposed for accomplishment by the Under Secretaries Committee in order to keep it a low-key and hopefully manageable project. There may be pressure to include agencies like CIEP, CEA, and OMB in the study group, but we can hope to avoid that by billing this as a preliminary effort on which we would seek their views for further work. We may have to concede CIEP participation at the outset, but I propose that we wait to see if pressure to do so actually develops.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you forward the memorandum at Tab I to the President requesting approval to issue the NSSM at Tab A, or, alternatively that you sign the NSSM at Tab A.

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